

NEBRASKA history news

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Restoring Falter's Paintings

John Falter didn't expect his illustrations to end up in a museum. They were made to be reproduced as ads, posters, or magazine covers. Falter kept the original paintings, but many had been removed from their stretchers and folded. After years of storage, paint began flaking, and grime darkened once-bright surfaces.

The paintings have recently been restored and are displayed in the Nebraska History Museum exhibition, *The Illustrator's Pencil: John Falter from Nebraska to The Saturday Evening Post*. In some cases, the before-and-after difference is dramatic. How was it done?

We asked the man who did the work. Kenneth Bé (pronounced "bay") is the paintings conservator at NSHS's Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha. He spent three months preparing twenty-one Falter paintings for the exhibition assisted by volunteer Delan Lonowski.

"The important thing is that every painting is different," Bé said, but generally his work involves three steps. First, a painting must be stabilized. Several of the Falter paintings had folds and buckles. Bé used small heating tools, vacuum suction techniques, and special adhesives to flatten them. A heated suction table in the Ford Center paintings lab helps in this process. Next, the painting has to

be mounted. In many cases he backed it with a second canvas for support, allowing it to be mounted to new stretchers.

"These are all structural treatments," Bé said. "Everything else is cosmetic." The third stage, then, is cleaning and restoration. He cleaned the paintings of dirt, "filling areas of paint loss with fill material and retouching those areas as minimally as possible—just enough to disguise areas of paint loss." In some cases he lightly varnished the painting.

There's an important distinction to be made between "conservation" and "restoration." Conservation is the broader term, referring to all aspects of preserving works of art. Restoration means replacing something that was lost (in this case, paint). In the case of an artifact, a conservator might be hesitant to repair wear and tear, not wanting to compromise the object's authenticity by making it look brand new.

"But with paintings," Bé said, "restoration is important because the artist has created something that's meant to be seen without that distracting damage."

In a recent interview with *artland* magazine (published by the Sheldon Museum of Art),

Continued on p. 2



John Falter painting for American Airlines ad, *Air Travel, Like Football, Belongs to Everybody*, 1946, before and after conservation. The painting showed buckling and a lot of paint loss, and needed cleaning. NSHS 10645-4422

*The Nebraska State
Historical Society
collects, preserves,
and opens to all, the
histories we share.*



*"Take a moment
and thank them."*

The People Behind Everything We Do

It's May once again, a time to enjoy the return of color to our yards and gardens, the planting activity across the countryside, weddings and graduations, and a flurry of media attention to awards and recognitions of achievers in our communities. That has reminded me to acquaint our readers with the NSHS's recognition of our paid and volunteer forces, the people who are behind everything we do with the history of Nebraska.

We are in the fourth year of participating in the Governor's Annual Employee Recognition Program, which honors staff of the state agencies in two categories, supervisors and employees. At the NSHS this is a peer-selection activity in which all employees are encouraged to nominate colleagues, after which a staff committee selects the winners.

The 2012 NSHS Manager of the Year is Tina Koeppe, Exhibition Services Coordinator at the Nebraska History Museum; Employee of the Year is Signe Kniss, a tourism guide and a thirteen-year employee at Chimney Rock National Historic Site at Bayard.

Signe and Tina join past winners: Supervisors: Charley McWilliams (Facilities), Michelle Furby (Accounting), and David Bristow (Publications); Employees: Jim Potter (Publications), Judy Keetle (Nebraska History Museum), and Laura Mooney (Collections). All were nominated and selected based on the enduring quality of their work and the value they bring to both the NSHS itself and to the services provided for the people of Nebraska.

These choices are not easy, for many of our staff members have equal qualifications and dedication. I am proud to say that while some of my colleagues are held up for special recognition, all contribute in important ways to the continuing success of the NSHS in meeting its mission and goals. Moreover, our success could not be achieved without the work of the more than 150 volunteers who collectively contribute thousands of hours of service in every part of our work—for example, scanning and posting *Nebraska History* online, helping with educational programming, or working in the Landmark Stores. A number of our volunteers were recently recognized at a reception held at the Nebraska History Museum.

I would like to commend to you, our members and readers, our entire workforce of paid and volunteer employees. Again and again, they give over and above what they are asked to do. Please take a moment and thank them when you next visit one of our facilities.

Michael J. Smith
Director/CEO

Continued from p. 1

Bé explained the guiding philosophy of his work: "I try to constantly remind myself that the look of an artwork is central to its meaning. However a piece is perceived in terms of its form, colors, textures, and so on ultimately influences what type of visual meaning we can gain from it. Art conservation can play a central role in helping (or hindering) these qualities. This is the great challenge in the profession: to do what is necessary to preserve—and perhaps restore—the visual integrity of an artwork with full respect to the artist's original intent."

The Ford Center /Conservation Division of the NSHS offers assessments, consultations, treatments, and education to help people and institutions care for objects of importance to them. Learn more at nebraskahistory.org/fordcenter, 402-595-1180. Discover information you can use to improve care of your own collections at savingtreasures.org

NSHS-Authored Book Wins National Award

The New York Book Industry Guild honored an NSHS-authored book earlier this year. *Scenery, Curiosities, and Stupendous Rocks: William Quesenbury's Overland Sketches, 1850-1851* (University of Oklahoma Press) received second place in the Professional Books/Scholarly design category. The book is also a finalist in the Independent Book Publishers Association's 2012 Benjamin Franklin Awards competition (winners were announced after this issue went to press). NSHS Senior Research Architect David Murphy was the book's primary author.

"Anyone interested in the western landscape will find this lavishly illustrated work immensely enjoyable." (From a recent review in *Kansas History*.) The book is available from the NSHS Landmark Stores, 402-471-3447.



New, Old Front for Old Building

What's better than a new building to stimulate a neighborhood? How about an old building restored to its former glory?

From its prominent position at Forty-ninth and Dodge, the "Piano Building" in Omaha is an easily recognizable landmark. But few people know that the structure that previously housed Renier's Pianos has a colorful past, and that the renovations which transformed it this past winter didn't give the building a new look, but rather an old one.


Built in 1926, the building has had many different tenants, including a Walgreens, a restaurant, a grocery store, and two companies that sold pianos. In the 1970s, in an attempt to modernize it, the outer walls were covered over with the plain surface shown in the photo above. But recently the owner decided to restore the building and now many aspects of its historic architecture are easily visible.

After stripping the outer layer of siding and repainting the bricks to a more realistic color, work was done to preserve the 1930s tiling at the main level of the interior. A second floor corridor was preserved, and restoration was done on doors, windows, and bathrooms. Although several alterations were made in order to comply with current building code requirements, much of the building, especially the second floor, now appears as it did more than eighty years ago.

Grant Landreth of the NSHS State Historic Preservation Office helped the owner take advantage of historic tax credits. Historic restoration projects that meet preservation standards and are approved by the National Park Service (NPS) can trigger a tax credit worth 20 percent of the project's qualifying costs. Landreth advises applicants how to comply with the requirements, and forwards the NSHS's recommendations to the NPS. The "Piano Building" is located in the Dundee-Happy Hollow Historic District, and was therefore eligible for tax credits.

Not only does this building provide a fascinating view of the neighborhood's past, Landreth believes it will help spark other historic preservation projects in the area. Because the building is in one of the "walkable parts of Omaha," it adds to the nostalgic and community feel of the Dundee neighborhood. According to the *Omaha World-Herald*, "the renovated building's tenants so far have added about

45 new jobs to the local area, and developers spent more than anticipated to add sustainable and environment-friendly features."

This project and others like it reveal the value and attractiveness of historic buildings, and the practical use they can serve today. For more information on tax credits or other rehabilitation incentives, contact Landreth at grant.landreth@nebraska.gov or 402-471-4788. 



Building at 49th and Dodge, Omaha, before and after its recent restoration.

Dedication of the Lincoln Memorial, September 2, 1912.
NSHS RG863-4b



Centennial of Lincoln Memorial Dedication, September 2

A crowd estimated at ten thousand gathered at the Nebraska Capitol building on September 2, 1912, to witness the unveiling of Daniel Chester French's heroic bronze sculpture of Abraham Lincoln. (French later sculpted the seated Lincoln for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.)

A hundred years later, the capitol has been replaced but the statue remains at its original location on the west side. It will be rededicated September 2, 2012, at 2 p.m. NSHS Director/CEO Mike Smith will be the speaker at the ceremony, which begins in the Warner Chamber of the Capitol. 🗓️

New Archeology at Fort Robinson

Visitors to Fort Robinson State Park see many original structures as well as replicas of important buildings that were torn down in the past. Recent archeological work by the NSHS will make a new reconstruction project more accurate.

Built around 1891, Building 14 was a two-story frame structure that served as officers' quarters. It was torn down in the mid-1950s when the U.S. Department of Agriculture had possession of the fort. Recently the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission received a large donation for its reconstruction. This past May, the NSHS archeology and historic preservation staff led a team of students and volunteers that excavated the building's remains.

"We had two main objectives," said Amy Koch of the NSHS. "We wanted to explore the basic footprint of the building—to find the main corners of the foundation and mark them so that when B14 is reconstructed, the new foundation will sit on the

same location. Secondly, building plans indicated a possible basement feature at the back of the building. We wanted to test that possible feature and perhaps recover architectural artifacts (building hardware) to aid with reconstruction."

Koch says the recovered artifacts were typical for a structure of that age: "lots of square and wire nails, window glass shards, foundation rubble, and burned coal." Other items included a door latch, a few historic ceramic sherds, a partially complete bottle, a picket pin, and a pewter or lead decorative finial (a crowning ornament) that resembles a bulldog head.

Though more than half the crew had no previous excavation experience, Koch said they were "very enthusiastic and motivated," and guided by the NSHS staff, the team finished its work in just four days. Game and Parks plans to start reconstruction next summer.

See more photos at blog.nebraskahistory.org; type "Fort Robinson" in the search window. 📷



At Fort Robinson, Greg Veys and Carla Plantikow draw profiles of their excavation unit, while in the background, Madeline Rodenbaugh and Terry Steinacher confer over the basement feature.
Photo by Holly Counts



A pewter or lead decorative finial that resembles a bulldog head.
Photo by Rex Rodenbaugh



Treasures from Nebraska Museums

From July through September, the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln is featuring items from the Wildwood Historic Center in Nebraska City. The Center features the Wildwood Period House, a Victorian Garden, and The Barn Art Gallery and Gift Emporium.

The house was built around 1869 for the Jasper Anderson Ware family. Upon seeing this ten-room home in the country, it is said that Jasper's wife, Ellen, exclaimed that she could not possibly live in such a wild wood! The house is decorated to reflect Victorian life in early Nebraska; costumed tour guides present visitors with information and activities from that period. Located just behind the house, The Art Barn Gallery and Gift Emporium displays the wares of regional artisans.

The museum is located at 420 Steinhart Park Road, and is open from the end of April through October, Monday–Saturday 10-5, and Sundays 1-5. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children for house tours and free to The Art Barn and garden. 402-873-6340, www.wildwoodhistoriccenter.org.



The Wildwood Period House in Nebraska City.



Mirror hand painted in 1884 in the Victorian style by Nebraska City resident Harriet Hershey.

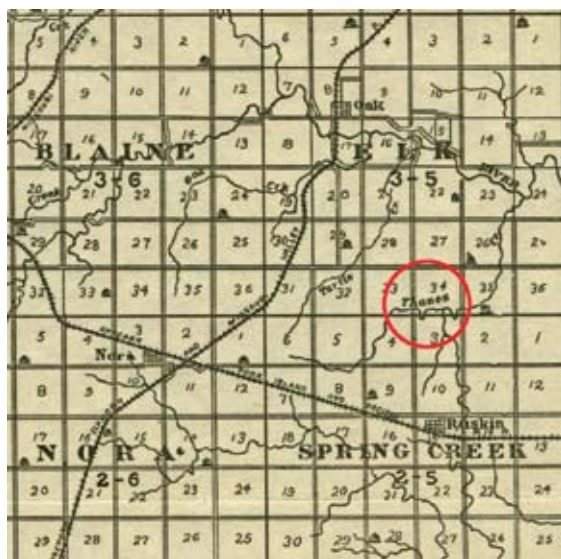


The furnished kitchen inside the Wildwood Period House.

Mr. Thane's Creek: Off the Map, But Not Forgotten

On May 17, 1870, a small band of Native Americans, Sioux or perhaps Cheyennes, raided settlements along Spring Creek and the Little Blue River in Nuckolls County, Nebraska. Before skirmishing with a detachment of five soldiers from Company C, Second U.S. Cavalry, and then retreating into Kansas, the Indians killed a fifty-three-year-old settler named William J. Thane. The Indians ran off Thane's four horses and made away with harness, flour, bacon, and other property. Company C cavalrymen found and buried Thane's body the next day. Barely six weeks earlier, Thane had claimed a homestead on a small tributary of the Little Blue River and had begun to break the land for farming. Now his widow, Ardelia, was left to care for the couple's six children, ranging in age from fifteen to two, and prove up on the homestead.

Minus an apostrophe, Thanes Creek still retained its original spelling in this detail from an early twentieth century map produced by the Nuckolls County highway commissioner's office.



Ardelia Thane had not accompanied her husband to the claim along the Little Blue. Only the couple's son, seven-year-old Abraham, was with his father at the time of the attack. It was Abraham who ran frantically to nearby Camp Bingham, the soldiers' temporary station guarding the settlements, to report his father's death. Mrs. Thane received the news in Plattsmouth, where the rest of the family was living. By September 1870, she and the children had moved to Lincoln, where they were recorded by the federal census-taker. Her late husband was enumerated in the mortality schedule of the census along with the grim explanation, "Killed by Indians." In April 1871 Ardelia Thane paid cash to gain title to the homestead. In the meantime, on March 9, 1871, the Nebraska Legislature passed a resolution urging Nebraska's congressional delegation to seek payment from the government for

the estimated \$880 worth of Thane's property the Indians had taken. Mrs. Thane died a year later on March 6, 1872, the fate of her land, her orphaned children, and her claim for restitution lost to history.

Other settlers had been killed by Indians during Nebraska's early years, and ordinarily William Thane's demise would not have been cause for memorialization, save perhaps for a headstone. The soldiers did not record if or how they marked the site of his hasty burial, the location of which remains unknown. In lieu of a monument Thane was remembered, at least for a time, when the small stream near his homestead was named "Thane's (or Thain's) Branch" in his honor. By 1882 that place-name had become well enough established to receive mention in A. T. Andreas's monumental *History of Nebraska*.

Subsequently, Thanes Creek, without the apostrophe, appeared on maps and plat books of Nuckolls County published well into the twentieth century. Despite the variant spellings that appear in some sources, it is probable that Thane is the correct rendering. At some unknown time, perhaps due to a transcription error, Thanes Creek became "Thawes Creek," and it is by the latter name that the stream appears today on Nebraska county highway and U.S. Geological Survey maps.

The historical origin of the naming of Thanes Creek is well documented, and William J. Thane deserves to be remembered in the manner the early Nuckolls County settlers intended. Unfortunately Thawes Creek, the modern designation, is now the official name for this feature and action by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names would be required to restore Mr. Thane to his rightful, though modest, place in history.

—James E. Potter, Senior Research Historian

Fort Robinson Hosts Art Show, July 1-4

The 39th Annual Crawford Western & Wildlife Art Show will be displayed July 1-4 in the historic Veterinary Hospital. The event provides a special venue for artists depicting the West in their work. In stalls where horses once stood, juried artists display and sell paintings, drawings and prints, sculptures, pottery, and photography. A state park pass is required, but otherwise the event is free. For more information about the art show, contact Barb Heckman at 308-665-1870. While you're at the Fort, but sure to stop in at our Fort Robinson Museum and tour other historic buildings now available for free.

Heritage Tourism Generates \$196M in Nebraska

A staggering \$196 million is generated in Nebraska by travelers seeking out authentic experiences with our past. “Heritage tourism” connects people to “the real deal”—museums and historic sites, back roads and byways where travelers can explore cultural heritage and get a real sense of place. Nebraska’s heritage attractions tell important stories about the state—stories that can only be experienced firsthand, thus creating a compelling incentive to choose the Cornhusker State as a travel destination. And heritage tourism allows Nebraskans to share their history and culture with others.

To better quantify its benefits, the NSHS and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development commissioned a comprehensive look at heritage tourism in the state. The study was conducted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and researchers also examined an NSHS-commissioned 2007 study of the economic benefits of historic preservation in Nebraska con-



ducted by Rutgers University and the UNL Bureau of Business Research.

The more than \$196 million annually supports more than three thousand jobs in the state, and results in \$16.4 million in state and local tax revenue. Tourism is already a significant part of Nebraska’s economy, the third-largest earner of revenue from outside the state.

Read the resulting Nebraska Heritage Tourism Plan (and an executive summary with colorful images of our state’s rich resources) at nebraskahistory.org/heritage-tourism.pdf. Or call 402-471-4787 or email teresa.fatemi@nebraska.gov for a printed copy. 📄

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Uncovering New History with NSHS Research Grants

New research is the lifeblood of our publications and exhibits. Historians look at old events in new ways, or explore aspects of our past that no one has thought to examine before. The NSHS supports the work of scholars researching some aspect of Nebraska history or archeology every year. (Both articles in the recent Summer 2012 issue of *Nebraska History* came from grant-supported research.) Recipients of this year’s \$1,000 grants are:

Paul Putz, a graduate student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, was selected for his proposal, “A Church for the People: Charles W. Savidge and the Evangelical Reform Impulse at the Turn of the Twentieth Century.” Savidge was a late nineteenth-century religious reformer who founded an independent church in the slums of Omaha in 1892; he combined aspects of both the radical holiness movement and the social gospel, and his work will provide a fascinating look at religion and reform in Gilded Age Omaha.

Sarah Trabert, a doctoral student in anthropology at the University of Iowa, will examine NSHS archeological collections to investigate the Dismal River culture (A.D. 1675-1725). Village sites belonging to this

culture have been excavated throughout western Nebraska, but we still know rather little about the people who lived there. Trabert will study their ceramics, comparing them to those of Dismal River groups in Kansas, Colorado, and Wyoming, and look for evidence of interaction with Pueblos in the Southwest.

Rebecca Anderson, a teacher in Danville, Pennsylvania, will study immigrant women’s choices of birth attendants in the early twentieth century. Lincoln’s “Russian Bottoms” district was then home to a large Volga German immigrant community (the NSHS houses records from several of their congregations). Anderson will research to what degree second-generation immigrant women used midwives from their family’s Russian village, as opposed to physicians and hospitals. This study of midwifery is a way of learning about the group’s acculturation into the wider American community. The study is believed to be the first scholarly historical treatment of Nebraska midwifery.

Grant funding is provided by the Gladys Marie Lux Education Endowment and the Tom and Marilyn Allan Fund, both administered by the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. 📄



Germans from Russia arriving in Lincoln, Nebraska.
NSHS RG2824-143



The Nebraska Legislative League presents a quilt to the NSHS. Left to right, Margo Carlson, Mary Lou Copeland, Judy Nelson, SharonAnn Loudon, Jan Wightman, Carol Gale, Julie Adams, Laura Mooney (curator, NSHS), Marilyn Hadley.

Nebraska Legislative League Donates Quilt

The Nebraska Legislative League recently donated one of their quilts to the Nebraska History Museum. Founded in 1913, the league is open to family members of current and former elected legislators, Nebraska Supreme Court justices, state constitutional officers, and Nebraska U.S. senators and representatives. As part of the group's charitable work, members make quilts and fleece throws to donate to a variety of institutions, or to be used in fundraisers for Nebraska organizations.

Other fundraising quilts have a long history in Nebraska, as shown in a current Nebraska History Museum exhibit, *Quilting for a Cause: Nebraska's Fundraising Quilts*. That exhibit was already under construction when the NLL quilt was donated; however, the quilt is now part of the museum's permanent collection and will be available for future display. 📖

Receive Nebraska History News by Email

Trying to reduce the amount of paper cluttering up your house? You can receive this publication by email. We'll send it to you as a PDF file, which can be read on any computer, Kindle, or other ebook reader. (PDFs of this and past issues are also available at nebraskahistory.org; click the Publications tab and go to the *Nebraska History* page.) Contact Lana Hatcher at lane.hatcher@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3272. 📖

NSHS Associate Director Wins Preservation Award

In April, the Preservation Association of Lincoln honored Bob Puschendorf with the Great Commoner Award. Puschendorf is the deputy state historic preservation officer and an NSHS associate director. The award is named in honor of William Jennings Bryan and recognizes advocacy and education in historic preservation. 📖



In Memoriam: Dale T. Bacon, 1955-2012

The Nebraska State Historical Society recently lost a seventeen-year staff member, Dale T. Bacon of Lincoln, who died on March 28, 2012, after battling cancer since the fall of 2010. Originally a member of the Security Division, he later worked in several capacities within the Library/Archives relating to manuscripts, audio-visual collections, photographs, and government records. In his final job as assistant curator of digital imaging, he helped preserve our state's photographic heritage and make images in the NSHS collections accessible to other staff members and the public.

Dale's particular interest was paranormal tales of Nebraska's ghostly past, which he shared with his colleagues and the public via community talks, including the NSHS Brown Bag Lecture Series; the NSHS blog; radio programs; DVDs and videos; and the popular Ghosts of Lincoln bus tours.

Dale was a U.S. Navy veteran. He is survived by partner Linda Keith of Lincoln, two daughters, and a granddaughter. His family, colleagues, and the community will miss him. 📖

Sign Up Now! Summer Fun for Kids at the Nebraska History Museum

This summer the NSHS is hosting classes for students, grades K-8, on a variety of topics. Students in grades 9-12 with an interest in history can volunteer to be class assistants. June classes included sessions on illustration art, Victorian table etiquette, Nebraska in the Civil War, and a puppet play about traveling west in a covered wagon.

July classes: "A Day in the Life of a Pioneer Child" (grades K-8), July 13, 9:00-4:30. Bring your lunch. Come in pioneer dress or wear pioneer clothing from the Investigation Station at the museum. Experience the activities of prairie children from breakfast through bedtime. Tour the exhibits *Building the State: Nebraska, 1867-1916*, and *Quilting for a Cause: Nebraska's Fundraising Quilts*. Make a quilt square to take home.


"Drawing Comics with Bob Hall" (grades 4-8), July 18, 9:30-12:00. Learn the tricks of the trade from local comic artist Bob Hall. Tour the exhibit *Superheroes and Thugs: The Comic Art of Bob Hall*. Create your own comic.

"Heavier-than-air Aircraft: How Do They Fly?" (grades 6-8), July 25, 26 and 27, 1:30-4:00. Learn

basic aviation principles. Tour the exhibit *Pioneering Aviators from Flyover Country*. Make your own paper airplanes and experiment with plane designs. Learn the parts of a plane and airplane terminology, the properties of air, and the importance of weather to aviation.

August classes: "Doodling: A Form of Artistic Play" (grades K-8), August 1, 9:30-12:00. Let loose artistically. Let your mind wander and draw whatever you think of, then produce a pleasing finished product. Tour the exhibit *The Illustrator's Pencil: John Falter from Nebraska to The Saturday Evening Post*.

"Native American Beadwork" (grades K-8), August 10, 9:30-12:00. Study beadwork designs from several Plains tribes. Tour the exhibit *The First Nebraskans*. Design and create a beadwork project of your own to take home.

All classes will be held at the Nebraska History Museum, 15th & P Streets, in downtown Lincoln. For information on fees and instructions on how to register for classes or how to volunteer to be a class assistant, call 402-471-4782 or visit www.nebraskahistory.org and click on "What's New." All registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis. 



Several young students dressed in Victorian costumes for a summer class in 2011.




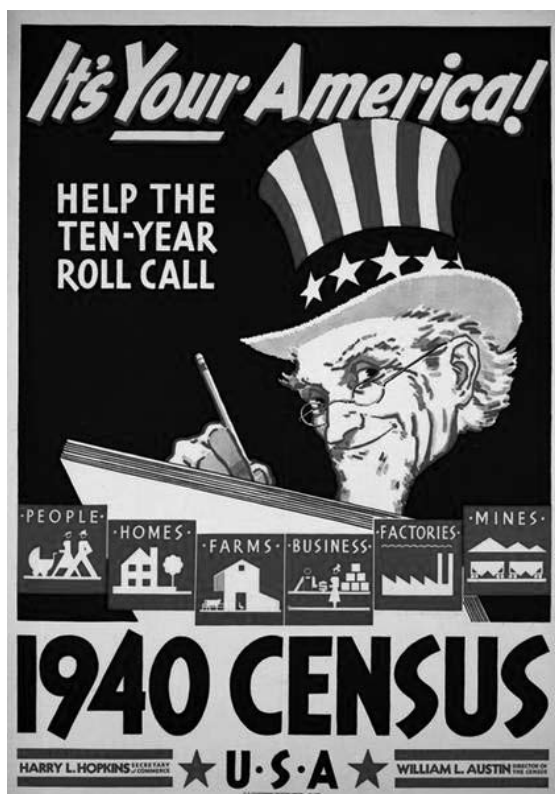
Puppets delighted adults and children alike during a summer class in 2011.

Search the 1940 Census

The 1940 census has been released and is available online. But where do you find it? And since it's still being indexed, how do you search it in the meantime? In March the NSHS and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Genealogical Society sponsored a free program in Lincoln. In case you missed it, we're providing online resources to help you get started.

Rather than give you a bunch of links in this printed document (where you can't click them), here's one that will lead to all the others: Go to blog.nebraskahistory.org and type "1940 census" in the search window. A recent post by NSHS Library Curator Cindy Drake will take you to the census itself, to general information about using the 1940 census for Nebraska, and other Nebraska genealogical resources (for example, we have 1940 city directories and phone books that can verify street addresses for your ancestors who lived in larger communities in the state).

Cindy suggests, "Even if you have been researching your Nebraska family for many years and feel that there is no new information the 1940 census could give you, take the time to locate your family members in it. I didn't think there would be anything new about my family, but I am now trying to resolve a question about my aunt and how she is listed on the census." 



UPCOMING EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the public.



Smith's Windmill
Restaurant, 3900 Normal
Boulevard, Lincoln.
NSHS RG2158-010-132

SAVE THE DATE

October 16

**NSHS Annual Meeting
and Awards Luncheon**
Holiday Inn, 141 No. 9th,
Lincoln (registration
required)

402-471-3270,
lanahatcher@nebraska.gov



July 1-4

**Parade, fireworks, car races, children's activities,
and more**

Old Mill Days and Fourth of July Celebration

Neligh, 402-887-4303, nshs.mill@nebraska.gov

July 1-4

**Display and sale of paintings, drawings, prints,
sculptures, pottery, photographs**
39th Annual Crawford Western & Wildlife Art Show
Fort Robinson Veterinary Building, Crawford
308-665-1870

July 3 • 10-11 a.m.

**Reading *A Fourth of July on the Plains*, by
Jean Van Leeuwen**

Hour at the Museum

Nebraska History Museum (NHM),
15th & P Streets, Lincoln
402-471-4754, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

July 10 • 10-11 a.m.

Reading *Best Friends*, by Loretta Krupinski
Hour at the Museum • NHM

July 13-August 10

"A Day in the Life of a Pioneer Child" (Grades K-8)
For class topics, dates, and times, see page 9

Summer Classes for Kids

NHM (registration required)
402-471-4754
judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

July 17 • 10-11 a.m.

Reading *Are We There Yet?*, by April L. Whitten
Hour at the Museum
NHM

July 19 • 12 noon

Jim Potter, NSHS Publications Division
**"Fort Donelson and Shiloh, 1862: How Nebraska's
Soldiers Helped Win the Civil War"**
Brown Bag Lecture Series
NHM

July 23 - September 7

"We the People": The Nebraska Viewpoint
Nebraska State Historical Society Touring Exhibition
Knight Museum and Sandhills Center, Alliance
308-762-2384, museum@cityofalliance.net

July 24 • 10-11 a.m.

**Reading *Lewis and Clark: Explorers of the American
West*, by Steven Kroll**
Hour at the Museum
NHM

July 31 • 10-11 a.m.

Reading *The Pony Express*, by Darice Bailer
Hour at the Museum • NHM

August 4 • 6-9 p.m.

**Microbrew tasting, food, music for \$20 to benefit
Neihardt State Historic Site**
Neihardt Bancroft Beer Fest
Country Pub, Main Street, Bancroft

August 5 • 1-4 p.m.

**Corps of Discovery music and stories by
Michael McDonald**
47th Annual Neihardt Day
John G. Neihardt State Historic Site, Bancroft
888-777-4667, www.neihardtcenter.org

August 7 • 10-11 a.m.

**Reading *The Boy Who Loved Bears: A Pawnee Tale*,
by Lynn Moroney**
Hour at the Museum • NHM

August 11 • 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

**WO_XETE-HIRE Dancers, speakers, films,
tours, Indian tacos**
Genoa U.S. Indian School Celebration
Genoa, 402-993-6636, nfcaryl@hotmail.com

August 16 • 12 noon

John Carter, NSHS Publications Division
**"Tourist Traps and Attractions along
Nebraska Highways"**
Brown Bag Lecture Series • NHM

August 31-February 13

Hard Time: Historic Nebraska Mug Shots
Exhibition • NHM, 402-471-4754

September 2 • 2 p.m.

Speaker Mike Smith, NSHS Director/CEO
Abraham Lincoln Statue Rededication
Nebraska State Capitol, Lincoln

September 8

**Music, car show, baking contests, children's
activities, and more**
Bread 'N Jam Festival
Neligh Mill State Historic Site
402-887-4303, nshs.mill@nebraska.gov

September 10 - November 4

"We the People": The Nebraska Viewpoint
Nebraska State Historical Society Touring Exhibition
Hastings Museum, Hastings
402-461-4629, museum@hastingsmuseum.org

September 16 • 2 p.m.

"The Blizzard of 1948-49," by Marita Placek
Sunday Afternoon at the Museum
John G. Neihardt State Historic Site, Bancroft

September 20 • 12 noon

Jose Garcia, NSHS Board of Trustees
"Historic Impact of the Spanish World on Nebraska"
Brown Bag Lecture Series • NHM

For updated events, see the Society's Facebook page,
linked from www.nebraskahistory.org

Visit Nebraska Historic Sites

Looking for some great getaway spots in Nebraska? Visit Fort Robinson near Crawford, Chimney Rock near Bayard, Neligh Mill in Neligh, the Thomas Kennard House in Lincoln, or the George Norris House in McCook. These historic sites provide the perfect getaway, as well as a terrific way to get to know Nebraska and the communities they are associated with.

While visiting these historic sites, you will learn about the most written about site along the Oregon Trail, military and Native American events, how a mill works, and so much more.

For more information about these important sites in Nebraska, and the hours of each site, visit www.nebraskahistory.org or call us at 402-471-4955 or 402-471-3272. Enjoy your summer visiting Nebraska! 📍

Coming in *Nebraska History*

In July 1909, Nebraska newspapers were full of enthusiasm for the Glidden Auto Tour. The American Automobile Association sponsored an endurance run that allowed automakers to showcase their new models. Pride and enthusiasm swept the state when tour officials included Nebraska in that year's 2,637-mile route. In the Fall 2012 Issue of *Nebraska History*, John T. Bauer describes Nebraskans' reactions to the tour and explains why the event was significant.

In the same issue, James E. Potter discusses a more detrimental kind of public enthusiasm: mob justice. We associate lynchings with the "wild west" and the lack of an established judicial system, but the story of vigilante justice is more complex than that. Potter explores the way that perceptions of justice have changed, and what we can learn from a gruesome part of our state's history. Look for the issue in your mailbox the second week of August. 📖



Lynching of Braden and Daley for horse stealing

Alleged horse thieves Harvey Braden and John Daley were lynched near Omaha in 1859. From Alfred E. Sorenson, *History of Omaha from the Pioneer Days to the Present Time* (1889).

Nebraska State Historical Society FOUNDATION

Thank you to the members of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation Board of Trustees who attended the 2012 Annual Meeting held at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. The luncheon and meeting was followed by a private presentation and tour of the recently completed Nebraska State Capitol Restoration Project. The presentation by Bob Ripley, capitol administrator and NSHSF trustee, and Dan Worth, AIA FAPT, senior principal/project manager, BVH Architects, provided trustees with an inside look at the restoration of our capitol.

A special thank you goes to Nancy Davis, NSHSF trustee, who facilitated a fun twist to the meeting this year with a Nebraska history trivia game. Everyone's knowledge of Nebraska was put to the test! Winners received many takeaways donated by Glacial Till Vineyard, the NSHS Foundation and Nancy Davis.

We look forward to seeing you all next year!



Bob Ripley leads a tour of the recently restored Nebraska State Capitol.

For more information about the NSHS Foundation, please contact: **Meg Klosterman Kester**, Executive Director, megk@nshsf.org; **Jodi Knight**, Development Director, jodik@nshsf.org.

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Lincoln, NE 68508
402-435-3535
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hours

**Nebraska
History Museum**
15 & P Streets, Lincoln
402-471-4754

Monday-Friday, 9-4:30
Sat. & Sun., 1-4:30

Museum Store
402-471-3447

Monday-Friday, 10-4:30
Saturday & Sunday, 1-4

Library/Archives
1500 R Street, Lincoln
402-471-4751

Tuesday-Friday, 10-4
Saturday 8-5

See Facebook link at
nebraskahistory.org

facebook

State Historic Site hours:
www.nebraskahistory.org

NEBRASKA history news

Nebraska State Historical Society

From the Collection. . .

The Iraq War as History

History is being made all the time. What we do today will be history tomorrow. The NSHS sometimes collects not only old items, but also new ones so we can preserve them for future generations while they are still in good condition.

This military jacket was worn by Father Brian Kane, who deployed with the 67th Area Support Group (Nebraska Army National Guard) to the Al Asad Air Base in west central Iraq from September 2005 until September 2006. The 67th ASG was in charge of garrison headquarters and base infrastructure. The unit also provided judge advocate general (legal) services on base, coordinated Catholic chaplain support in western Iraq, and operated a poll workers camp before and after the 2005 Iraq elections. 